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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Confirmation No. 3583

Keiko YAMASAKI et al.

Docket No. 2001_1026A

Serial No. 09/914,265

Group Art Unit 1615

Filed August 24, 2001

Examiner Isis Ghali

EXTERNAL SKIN PATCH

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated November 15, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

B1

1. (Amended) An external skin patch, comprising a substrate and a drug reservoir layer coated on the substrate, in which the drug reservoir layer comprises (1) an adhesive gel base, which comprises a water soluble polymeric material, a crosslinking agent, water and a humectant as essential components, together with (2) medicinal components comprising a local anesthetic and a nonsteroidal antiphlogistic analgesic agent, wherein the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of aluminum compounds, and wherein the humectant is selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alcohols, saccharides and super absorbent resins.

2. (Amended) An external skin patch according to claim 1, in which the local anesthetic comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of tetracaine, procaine, dibucaine, lidocaine, benzocaine, xylocaine, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.